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Improved Route to Bridged Planar Poly(*p*-phenylene) Derivatives for Maximization of Extended *p*-Conjugation

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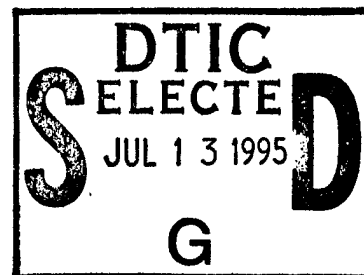
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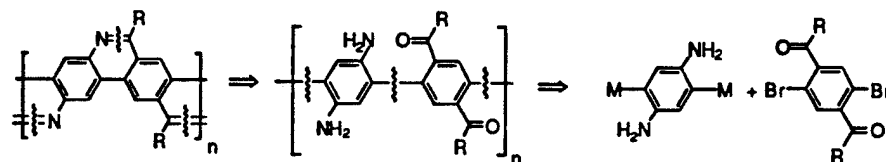
# Improved Route to Bridged Planar Poly(*p*-phenylene) Derivatives for Maximization of Extended $\pi$ -Conjugation

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Poly(*p*-phenylene) (PPP), a highly insoluble polymer that has been studied extensively for its possible electronic and photonic applications, has a 23° twist between the consecutive aryl units due to ortho hydrogen interactions.<sup>1</sup> Attempts to enhance the solubility by substitution of the rings forces the consecutive aryl units even further out of plane resulting in a plummet of the extended conjugation (easily observed by the optical spectra).<sup>1</sup> We recently described a route to soluble ladder PPP derivatives.<sup>2</sup> Here we describe an improved synthetic route to the monomers as well as an aryl-substituted ladder PPP derivative.<sup>3</sup>

Our retrosynthetic approach involved two key steps (Scheme I, M = metal). First, imine cleavage to the

**Scheme I**

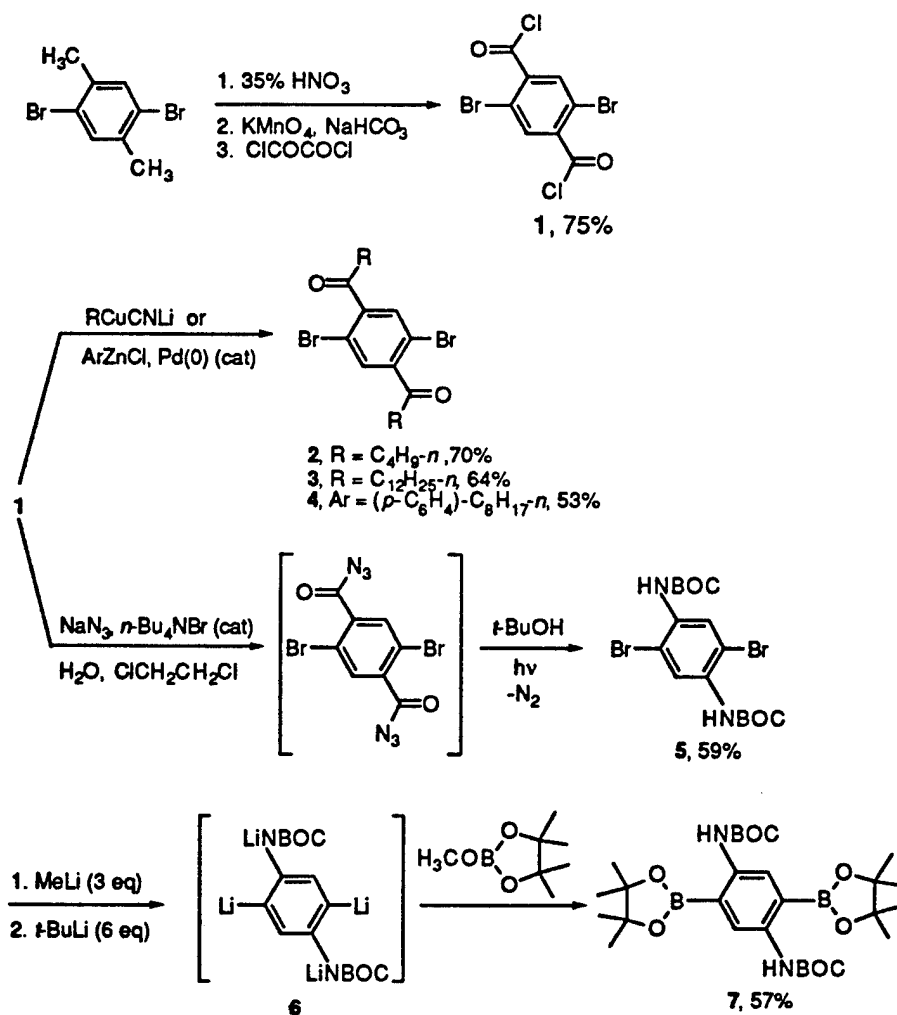


ketoamine functionalized PPP, and second, bond cleavage to the two arene systems shown. Since Pd(0)-catalyzed oxidative addition reactions are facilitated with electron deficient ring systems,<sup>4</sup> we chose to keep the halides on the ketoaromatic portion.

After several nearly quantitative model reactions, we synthesized the two key monomers needed for the desired AB-type step growth polymerization. Dibromoxylene was oxidized by a two-step procedure<sup>5</sup> which was superior to the one step Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub> procedure<sup>2</sup> described previously. The route described here is an improvement over our former approach in that the same dibromobis(acid chloride) (**1**) can be used for the synthesis of both the A and B monomer units. Conversion of **1** to the diketone was

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accomplished with the use of the lower order alkylcyanocuprate, or an arylzinc halide and Pd(0) catalysis.<sup>6</sup> This Pd(0)-catalyzed procedure proved to be superior for the aryl ketone formation. **1** could also be converted to the bis(acylazide) under phase transfer conditions. Photolysis with a UV TLC-spotting light affected the bis-Curtius rearrangement with N<sub>2</sub> expulsion. *t*-BuOH trapping of the bis(isocyanate) afforded the desired bis(BOC)-protected amine **5**.<sup>7</sup> These phase transfer conditions and subsequent photochemical rearrangements were the only set of conditions that worked, in our studies, for this transformation. The yield of 59% for **5** is after repeated crystallization, thus, the efficiency of this process is quite good.

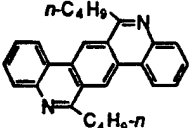
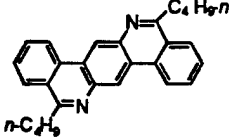


While **5** was nearly insoluble in ether at 0°C, it could be tetralithiated in ether to form a soluble intermediate **6** in almost quantitative yield (checked by addition of TMSCl and isolation of the arylbis(silane) after aqueous work-up). Treatment of **6** with methyl pinacol borate afforded the monomer **7** which could be purified by passage through a flash chromatography column containing a mixture of activated charcoal and Celite as the stationary phase (silica gel or neutral alumina caused rapid decomposition of the intermediate) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as the eluant followed by recrystallized to form pure **7**.

Reaction of **2**, **3**, or **4** with **7**, in the presence of a Pd(0) catalyst, yielded the soluble polymers **8**, **9**, and **10**, respectively, from which size exclusion chromatography (SEC) could be used to determine the hydrodynamic volumes relative to polystyrene (**8**: 63% yield after fractional precipitation,  $M_n = 9,850$  with  $M_w/M_n = 1.85$ ; **9**: 97% yield after fractional precipitation,  $M_n = 28,400$  with  $M_w/M_n = 3.70$ ; **10**: 80% yield after fractional precipitation,  $M_n = 18,500$  with  $M_w/M_n = 2.75$ ). Upon exposure of **8**, **9**, or **10** to trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), quantitative loss of the BOC protecting group and cyclization afforded **11** (90% yield), **12** (97% yield), and **13** (90% yield), respectively.<sup>8</sup> All stretches for the ketone, carbamate, and amine in **8**, **9**, and **10** were absent in the FTIR spectrum of the planar polymers.



Table I. Optical Absorption Data

Compound	$\lambda$ in solution (nm) <sup>a</sup>	$\lambda$ of solid (nm) <sup>a</sup>
8	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> : <u>250</u> , 306 (sh)	<u>248</u> , 308 <sup>b</sup>
9	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> : <u>250</u> , 388	<u>250</u> , 398 <sup>b</sup>
10	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> : <u>254</u>	<u>254</u>
11	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> /TFA: 374, <u>396</u> , 426 (sh), 514, 520 (ed) <sup>c</sup>	-----
12	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> /TFA: 376, <u>400</u> , 428, 478, 516, 530 (ed) <sup>c</sup>	<u>463-490</u> <sup>d</sup>
13	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> /TFA: 380, <u>402</u> , 458, 506, 549 <sup>c</sup>	-----
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> : <u>300</u> (ref 9)	-----
	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> : <u>294</u> (ref 9)	-----
<i>p</i> -sexiphenylene	CHCl <sub>3</sub> : <u>318</u> (ref 10)	-----
PPP (calcd infinite <i>M<sub>n</sub></i> )	<u>344</u> (ref 10)	-----

<sup>a</sup> $\lambda_{\max}$  is underlined, (sh) is shoulder, (ed) is tailing edge at ~10% of  $\lambda_{\max}$  intensity. <sup>b</sup>Also a strong carbonyl absorption at 196 nm. <sup>c</sup>Spectrum recorded on the acid solubilized, therefore, multiprotonated system. <sup>d</sup>These  $\lambda_{\max}$  values were recorded on a series of four different polymer samples of 9 in order to insure their reproducibility.<sup>11</sup>

Figure 1. UV-vis spectrum of 13 in a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/TFA (3/2) mixture

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(7) We developed these rearrangements conditions at the same time that Swager described an analogous procedure without BOC protection. See: Zhou, Q.; Swager, T. M. *Polym. Prepr. (Am. Chem. Soc., Div. Polym. Chem.)* 1994, 35(1), 277. Our development was based on work by Pfister. See: Pfister, J. R.; Wymann, W. E. *Synthesis* 1983, 38.

(8) 8: Anal. calc'd for  $(C_{32}H_{42}N_2O_6)_n$ : C, 69.79; H, 7.69; N, 5.07. Found: C, 70.55; H, 7.25; Br, <0.5; N, 5.13. 9: Anal. calc'd for  $(C_{48}H_{74}N_2O_6)_n$ : C, 74.38; H, 9.62; N, 3.61. Found: C, 74.99; H, 9.40; Br, <0.5; N, 3.55. 11: Anal. calc'd for  $(C_{22}H_{22}N_2)_n$ : C, 84.04; H, 7.05; N, 8.91. Found: C, 79.13; H, 6.77; Br, <0.5; N, 8.56. 12: Anal. calc'd for  $(C_{38}H_{54}N_2)_n$ : C, 84.70; H, 10.10; N, 5.20. Found: C, 81.45; H, 9.64; Br, <0.5; N, 5.22.

(9) The planar trimers were prepared during our model studies for the polymerizations described here using Pd-catalyzed couplings.

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(11) Drs. R. Gaudiana and P. Mehta of Polaroid Corporation kindly provided the solid-state UV-vis data.



